

## Message Text

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47

ORIGIN CEQ-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCI-06 EPA-04 COME-00 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY: CEQ: HHJANIN

APPROVED BY: SCI/ EN: WM SALMON

EUR/ CE: JNELSON

----- 026227

R 101512 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS STATE 088803

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SENV, GE

SUBJ: AIR POLLUTION IN KNAPSACK, GERMANY

1. FRIENDS OF THE EARTH PUBLICATION " NOT MAN APART" CARRIED  
ARTICLE IN APRIL 1973 ISSUE CLAIMING VILLAGE OF KNAPSACK  
IS BEING CLOSED DOWN BY AIR POLLUTION FROM PHOSPHATE PLANT.  
REQUEST EMBASSY VERIFY WHETHER STORY CORRECT AND IF SO,  
ATTEMPT DETERMINE COST TO PHOSPHATE FIRM OF RELOCATING  
INHABITANTS.

2. TEXT OF ARTICLE IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: KNAPSACK, A 406- YEAR OLD VILLAGE IN GERMANY, NOW  
HAS THE DUBIOUS HONOR OF BEING PROBABLY THE FIRST TOWN IN  
HISTORY OFFICIALLY DECLARED UNINHABITABLE BECAUSE OF AIR  
POLLUTION. KNAPSACK AG, THE SECOND- LARGEST PHOSPHATE PRODUCER  
IN THE WORLD, OPERATES A PLANT AT KNAPSACK. THE PLANT BELCHES  
FLAMES, WHITE SMOKE, AND STEAM FROM DOZENS OF OPENINGS.  
THE FUMES INCLUDE PHOSPHATE DUSTS AND ACIDS, SULFUR DIOXIDE,  
AND COAL DUST. THEY HAVE MADE THE TOWN UNINHABITABLE, AND  
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FAMILY BY FAMILY, KNAPSACK'S PEOPLE ARE BEING MOVED TO A  
NEW TOWN A FEW MILES AWAY. KNAPSACK'S HOUSES ARE BEING  
DEMOLISHED.

KNAPSACK AG SPOKESMEN CLAIM THAT THE COMPANY HAS SPENT OVER  
DOLS 12 MILLION AND HAS 60 MEN WORKING ON POLLUTION CONTROL.  
STATE POLLUTION OFFICIALS SAY THAT KNAPSACK AG MEETS QUOTE THE  
STATE OF THE ART END QUOTE POLLUTION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS,  
AND THAT NO FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN EMISSIONS CAN BE MADE,  
UNLESS KNAPSACK AG SHUTS DOWN. BY 1975, THE TOWN OF KNAPSACK  
WILL BE GONE, ALTOGETHER. END QUOTE. ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** CEQ: HHJANIN  
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